

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 151195  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:DKEOGH:RCB  
APPROVED BY AF:WBEDMONDSON  
AF/S:DKPETTERSON

-----127590 291633Z /47

O 291617Z JUN 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMCONSUL DURBAN NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151195

DURBAN FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF PGOV

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST  
ARTICLES ON SOUTH AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 149967, (B) STATE 149723

1. WE HAVE REPEATED TO YOU IN DURBAN REFTELS TRANSMITTING  
NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE JUNE 26 BY JOHN BURNS AND WASHING-  
TON POST ARTICLE JUNE 27 BY DAVID OTTAWAY. BURDEN OF BOTH  
ARTICLES IS THAT THERE IS GREAT FERMENT IN AFRIKANERDOM  
OVER THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND THAT SERIOUS SPLITS  
ARE DEVELOPING IN THE NATIONAL PARTY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE  
YOUR BRIEF ASSESSMENT BY 9:00 A.M. TOMORROW,(JUNE 30)  
WASHINGTON TIME OF BOTH ARTICLES. INFORMATION COULD BE  
VERY USEFUL FOR INTERAGENCY MEETING SAME DAY.

2. IN PARTICULAR, WE BELIEVE THE OTTAWAY ARGUMENT THAT  
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THERE ARE DISTINCT WINGS WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARTY, DIVIDED  
ALONG VERLIGTE VS VERKRAMPTE LINES, IS OVERDRAWN. WE  
QUESTION IN LIGHT REACTION TO KOORNHOF SPEECH IF LEADER-  
SHIP OF THE NP IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN TRYING TO TURN THE  
PARTY TOWARDS A NEW FUTURE FOR SOUTH AFRICA. WE ALSO

WONDER IF BOTH ARTICLES DO NOT GIVE A WRONG IMPRESSION

OF THE DEGREE OF WILLINGNESS TO ADOPT MORE LIBERAL  
POLICIES FOR SOUTH AFRICA ON THE PART OF MOST VERLIGTES.  
WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE LIMITS TO THEIR  
FLEXIBILITY, AS WELL AS ON THE OTHER ASPECTS MENTIONED  
ABOVE. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, PARTY DISSENSION  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Number:** 1977STATE151195  
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**Drafter:** DKEOGH:RCB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** ASSESSMENT OF NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST ARTICLES ON SOUTH AFRICA  
**TAGS:** PGOV, SOPN, SF  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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